

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W
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R 070744Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 729

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NEW YORK 717

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6643

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN POLICY ON ANGOLA

REF: TUNIS 6601

1. QUESTIONED BY EMBOFF NOV 5 RE SIGNIFICANCE OF CURRENT
MPLA DELEGATION VISIT HERE, MOFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL
AFFAIRS SADOK BOUZAIENE REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: GOT HAD
WARMLY SUPPORTED HOLDEN ROBERTO AND HIS FNLA "FOR
FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN YEARS." BOUZAIENE HAD BEEN WORKING
HARD ON ANGOLAN SITUATION FOR SOME TIME AND IS DEPRESSED
BY LACK OF INTEREST IN OUTCOME SHOWN BY MODERATE AFRICANS
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HE HAS CONTACTED. HE IS ALSO IMPRESSED BY AMOUNT OF ZEAL

SHOWN BY PRO-COMMUNIST AFRICANS FOR MPLA CAUSE. LIKEWISE, BOUZAIENE SAID, HE HAS BEEN WAITING IN VAIN FOR SOME INDICATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN OR AMERICAN INTEREST IN WHETHER FNLA OF MPLA WILL WIN. EMBOFF REFERRED TO PUBLIC STATEMENT BY SPOKESMAN TO EFFECT USG POLICY IS ONE OF NEUTRALITY.

2. BROUGHT BACK TO SPECIFIC QUESTION OF MEANING OF MPLA DELEGATION VISIT, BOUZAIENE DID NOT DESCRIBE CONTENT OF TALKS. (EMBASSY NOTES DELEGATION MET PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IN COMPANY OF FONMIN AND MINISTER SAYAH NOV 5.) HE GAVE BACKGROUND OF GOT POLICY WHICH IS TO URGE THAT ALL ANGOLAN PARTIES SHOULD HAVE APPROPRIATE SAY INFORMATION OF INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT. GOT REPRESENTATIVE AT WHAT BOUZAIENE DESCRIBED AS OAU MEETING NOW TAKING PLACE IN KAMPALA WITH RESPECT TO OAU MISSION TO ANGOLA IS ADHERING TO THAT POLICY LINE, HE SAID. GOT AND MPLA HAD NOT GOTTEN TOGETHER PREVIOUSLY OWING TO MPLA BELIEF THAT MEETINGS WOULD NOT BE WELCOMED BY GOT. FONMIN CHATTI, HOWEVER, HAD MET MPLA DELEGATION AT LIMA CONFERENCE (PRESUMABLY NONALIGNED CONFERENCE, AUGUST 1975) AND UNDERVXIBILITY THAT HE WOULD BE RECEIVED IN TUNIS. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO MPLA IN ALGIERS HAD REQUESTED VISIT FORMALLY AND BEEN ACCEPTED.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY ATTEMPTING ASCERTAIN SUBSTANCE OF GOT/MPLA TALKS. MEANWHILE NET IMPRESSION CONVERSATION LEAVES IS THAT GOT IS TEMPERING ITS TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR FNLA AND OPENING DOORS TO MPLA IN PART BECAUSE FRIENDS OF TUNISIA SEEM READY TO ACCEPT AN MPLA VICTORY WITHOUT REGRET.
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